

# ***NEWS RELEASE***

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***OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
San Diego, California***

***United States Attorney  
Carol C. Lam***

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***For Immediate Release***

**NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - July 12, 2004**

United States Attorney Carol C. Lam announced that GUILLERMO ROMERO-FLORES and GUADALUPE VENTURA were arraigned today on a superseding indictment in United States District Court in San Diego before the Honorable Thomas J. Whelan. In the superseding indictment, the grand jury charged both ROMERO-FLORES and VENTURA with two counts of Harboring Aliens, and two counts of Harboring Aliens for Purposes of Prostitution. The grand jury also charged VENTURA with one count of Bringing in an Alien for Financial Gain, and one count of Transporting an Alien for Purposes of Prostitution. The grand jury issued its superseding indictment on July 9, 2004.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Christopher P. Tenorio, who is prosecuting the case, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) special agents arrested ROMERO-FLORES and VENTURA on November 24, 2003 at the defendants' residence in Vista, California. The defendants were initially indicted in December 2003; and were charged then with harboring

aliens. The Superseding Indictment alleges that ROMERO-FLORES and VENTURA harbored illegal aliens in the United States in order to profit from their services as prostitutes.

United States Attorney Lam said, "The reprehensible nature of this crime, which involved smuggling vulnerable women into this country to engage in prostitution, called out for law enforcement action."

ROMERO-FLORES and VENTURA are scheduled to appear before Judge Whelan for a motions hearing on September 7, 2004 at 2:00 p.m.

## **DEFENDANTS**

Guillermo Romero-Flores

Guadalupe Ventura

## **SUMMARY OF CHARGES**

Counts 1 & 2 8 U.S.C. § 1324(a)(1)(A)(iii) and (v)(II) (Harboring Aliens, and Aiding and Abetting)  
Maximum penalty: 10 years; \$250,000 Fine

Counts 3 & 4 8 U.S.C. § 1328 & 18 U.S.C. § 2 (Harboring Aliens For Purposes of Prostitution, and Aiding and Abetting)  
Maximum penalty: 10 years; \$250,000 Fine

Count 5 8 U.S.C. § 1324(a)(2)(B)(ii) & 18 U.S.C. § 2 (Transportation of Illegal Alien for Financial Gain, and Aiding and Abetting)  
Minimum penalty: 3 years  
Maximum penalty: 10 years; \$250,000 Fine

Count 6 18 U.S.C. § 2421 & 18 U.S.C. § 2 (Transportation For Purposes of Prostitution, and Aiding and Abetting)  
Maximum penalty: 10 years; \$250,000 Fine

## **AGENCIES**

Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement  
Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation

**An indictment is not evidence that the defendants committed the crimes charged. They, like all defendants, are presumed innocent until the Government meets its burden in court of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.**